Child deaths due to malnutrition

†1534. SHRI BHAGWAT1 SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the fact that malnutrition is the cause of 50 per cent of children's deaths;

(b) whether one of the reasons of malnutrition is poverty and lack of awareness; and

(c) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to strengthen and nourish the future generation of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Malnutrition is not the direct cause of death. Major causes of Mortality among children in India include acute respiratory infection sepsis, diarrhea and measles, low birth weight, poor breastfeeding practices etc.

(b) and (c) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem, the determinants of which vary from food insecurity, female illiteracy, poor access to health care, immunization, safe drinking water, sanitation and other social services. Government is taking following steps to improve dietary habits of the people and to nourish the children.

The Community Food and Nutrition Extension Units (CFNEUs) of the Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development are engaged in Nutrition awareness programmes and organizing training courses for improving the dietary food habits of the population.

The Scheme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented in the country under which Supplementary Nutrition is being provided to the children up to 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The Government has expanded the Scheme of ICDS recently in the 3rd Phase of expansion to cover the hitherto uncovered habitations across the country. Under the 3rd Phase of expansion, 792 additional projects, 2.13 lakhs additional Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and 77,102 Mini-Anganwadi Centres (M-AWCs) have been sanctioned.

— A proposal for 20,000 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) on demand, has also been approved.

— The norms for supplementary nutrition have been revised as under:

Sl.No.	Category	Existing	Revised (per beneficiary per Day)
1	Children (6-72 Months)	Rs. 2.00	Rs.4.00
2.	Severely malnourished children (6-72 Months)	Rs. 2.70	Rs. 6.00
3	Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs. 2.30	Rs. 5.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

— From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.

— With effect from 2009-10, the sharing pattern between the Centre and States has been revised under the cost sharing between the Centre and States will be as under:-

(i) 90:10 for all components including SNP for North East.

(ii) 50:50 for SNP and 90:10 for all components of all States other than North East.

Constant emphasis on States to:

- Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms,
- Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls;

(iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programme of Food and Nutrition Board

(v) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) [Department of School Education and Literacy].

Fortified food under ICDS

1535. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has gone ahead to feed ready-to-eat micro nutrient fortified food to eight crore poor children under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme, inspite of Ministry of Human Resource Development's rejection, Planning Commission's disapproval and also PMO's objections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 'ready-to-eat meal' biscuit lobbies are behind this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Supreme Court has directed that children should be provided hot cooked meals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) As per the guidelines contained in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have the flexibility to select the type of food to be provided as supplementary nutrition to Pregnant and Lactating Mothers and children below six years of age. Supplementary Nutrition continues to be provided, as per existing guidelines, and as per directions of the Apex Court, to all Pregnant and Lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age coming to the Anganwadi Centre. There is no centralised procurement for supplementary nutrition. Government of India provides funds for supplementary nutrition programme as per schematic norms.